

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application. Claims 1-13 are pending in this application.

A review of the claims indicates that:

- A) Claims 1-13 remain in their original form.
- B) No claims are currently amended.
- C) No claims are previously presented.
- D) No claims are currently added.
- E) No claims are currently cancelled.
- F) Claims 9-13 are withdrawn.

**Election/Restriction**

The claims are subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and are characterized by the Office as containing two patentably distinct inventions:

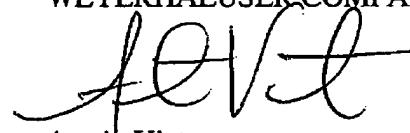
- I. Claims 1-8 drawn to a castellated beam, classified in class 52, subclass 731.2;
- II. Claims 9-13 drawn to a method of forming a wood-containing beam.

Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute claims 1-8 (Group I) in the event that the restriction requirement is maintained. The election is made with traverse because Applicants respectfully request that the Office reconsider the current number of claim groupings.

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and its allowance.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
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